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Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG)

A Stakeholder Engagement and Advisory Process to Advance the Environmentally Responsible Development of Offshore Wind Energy for New York State



NYSERDA

April 10, 2023

Introductions

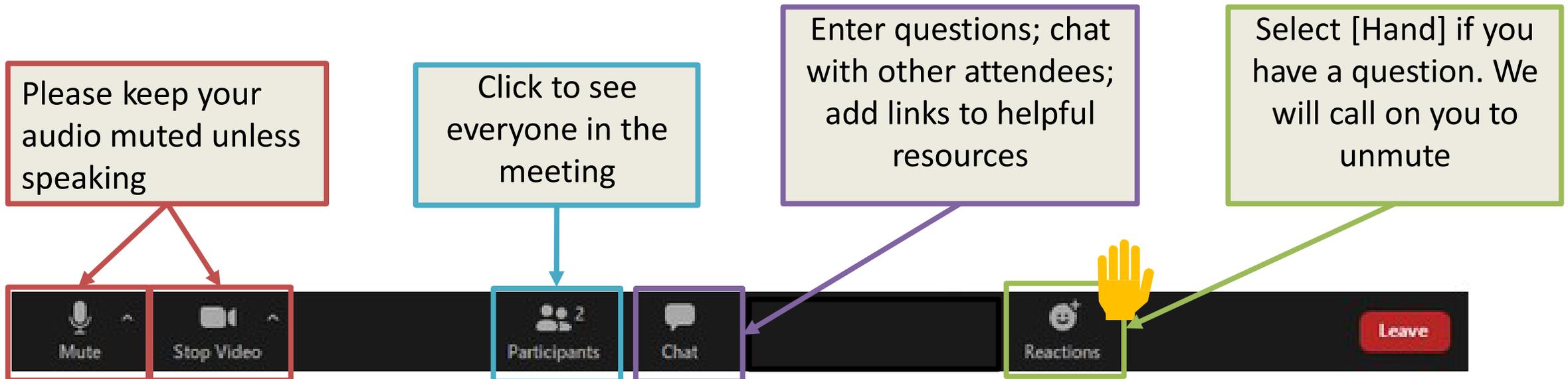


CADMUS

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- **Technical Support: Tetra Tech**
 - Brian Dresser, brian.dresser@tetratech.com
- **Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus**
 - Pat Field, pfield@cbi.org
 - Ashley Arayas, ashley.arayas@cadmusgroup.com

Zoom Orientation

- > Use the navigation bar at the bottom of your screen to access controls in Zoom.
- > Please be concise with your comments and give others a chance to contribute.
- > If you are not a Core F-TWG Member (Fishing Industry and Developer members), please consider entering your questions/comments in the chat and we will cover them if time permits.



F-TWG Ground Rules

- Engage constructively with one another
- Acknowledge and articulate differences with respect and clarity
- Provide input and advice to the State of New York, including broadly shared advice where possible
- In lieu of agreement among F-TWG members, articulate the range of advice or options clearly and the reasons for differences

Mission Reminder

- The mission of the Fisheries Technical Working Group (Fisheries TWG or “F-TWG”) is to provide advice and guidance to help steer the State of New York’s efforts to advance offshore wind development in an environmentally responsible way and to protect and sustain the State’s and region’s fisheries and fishing communities
- For purposes of this framework, the term “fisheries” includes commercial and recreational fishing as generally used in fisheries management-related discussions.

Masterplan 2.0: Deep Water

Master Plan 2.0: Deep Water

> Study and Engagement Plans

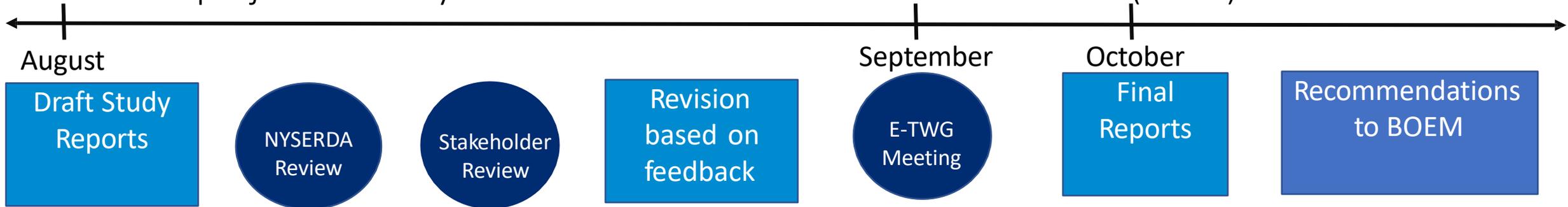
- Environmental and Fisheries Site Assessment Studies
 - Fisheries Engagement Approach
- Deep Water Wind Technologies: Concepts Study
- Maritime, wind resources assessment, oceanographic conditions, feasibility based on distance and depth



Environmental and Fisheries Assessments

> Timeline for Stakeholder Engagement

- Form project advisory committees to inform each of the studies (ASAP)



Environmental and Fisheries Site Assessment Studies Supporting New York's Offshore Wind Master Plan 2.0: Deep Water



10 April 2023

Key Personnel

Management



Sarah Zappala
*Contract
Manager*



Anwar Khan
*Project
Manager*



Kate Estler
*Deputy Project
Manager*

Technical Leadership

Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles



Dr. Kristen Ampela

Birds and Bats



Dr. Wing Goodale

Fish and Fisheries



Dave Davis



Dr. Dan Engelhaupt

Benthic Habitats

Kate Estler

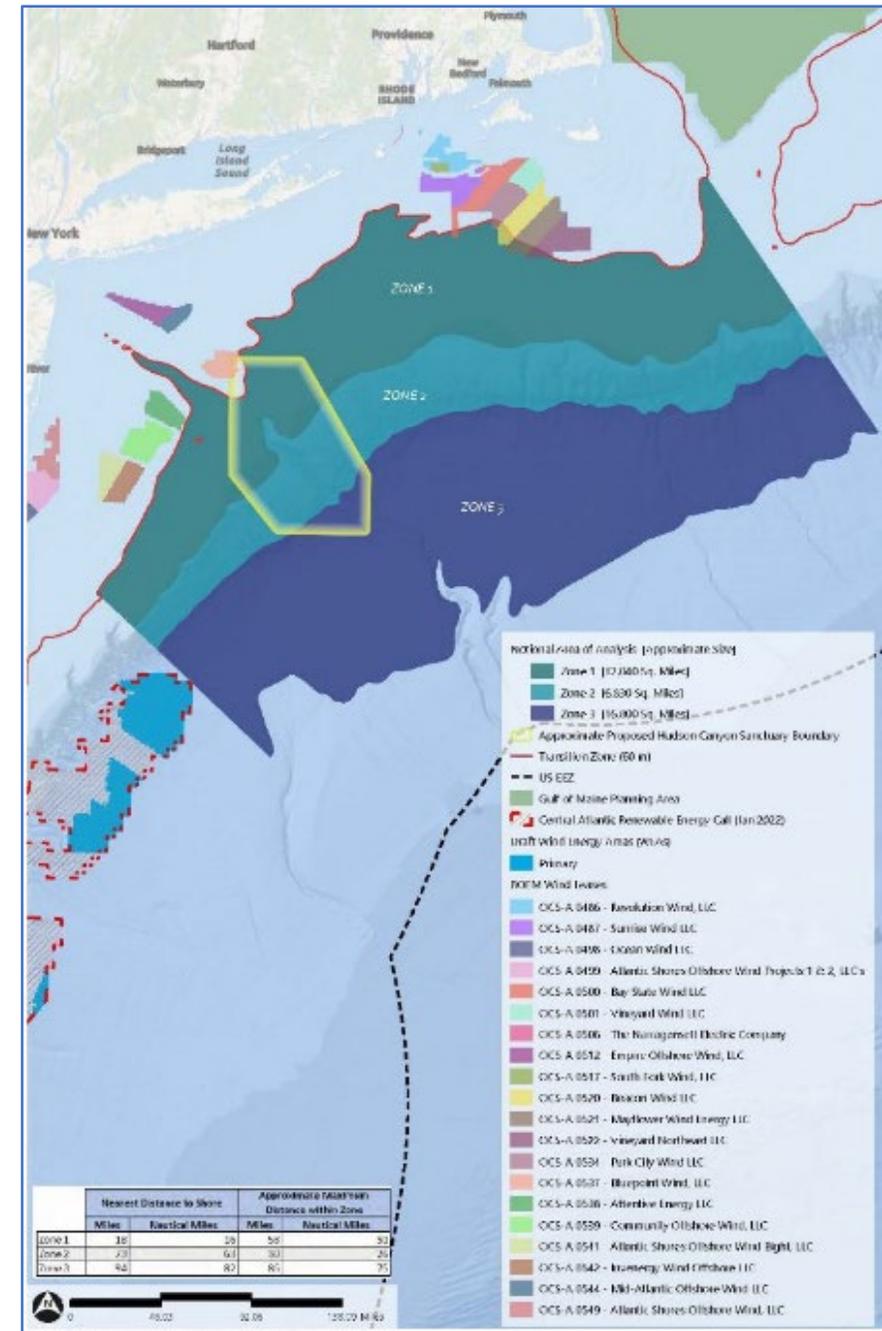
Environmental Sensitivity Analysis



Jaak Van den Sype

Project Objectives

- Conduct desktop assessments to review and synthesize available and relevant existing data sets on key resources:
 - Marine mammals and sea turtles
 - Birds and bats
 - Fish and fisheries
 - Benthic habitats
- Identify existing data and ongoing research within and adjacent to the Area of Analysis (AoA)
- Identify potential stressors from all phases of OSW development with a focus on deep water technology
- Provide recommendations on minimization and mitigation options to reduce potential risk
- Identify future research needs and opportunities to address data gaps
- Engage with experts through Project Advisory Committees and E- and F-TWGs





TASK 1 - Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles

Methods:

- Identify existing data sources
- Characterize marine mammal and sea turtle abundance/density, distribution, and temporal use-patterns in the AoA
- Identify potential risks to marine mammals and sea turtles from all phases of OSW development
- Identify data and research gaps or uncertainties and recommendations for specific methods and research tools to address these gaps
- Summarize relevant mitigation and monitoring practices





TASK 2 - Birds and Bats

Methods:

- Identify existing data sources
- Develop spatial risk assessment, through:
 - Foraging analysis
 - Marine bird exposure and vulnerability assessment
 - Tracking data
- Identify potential risks to birds and bats from all phases of OSW development
- Identify data and research gaps or uncertainties and recommendations for specific methods and research tools to address these gaps
- Summarize relevant mitigation and monitoring practices



TASK 3 - Fish & Fisheries

Methods:

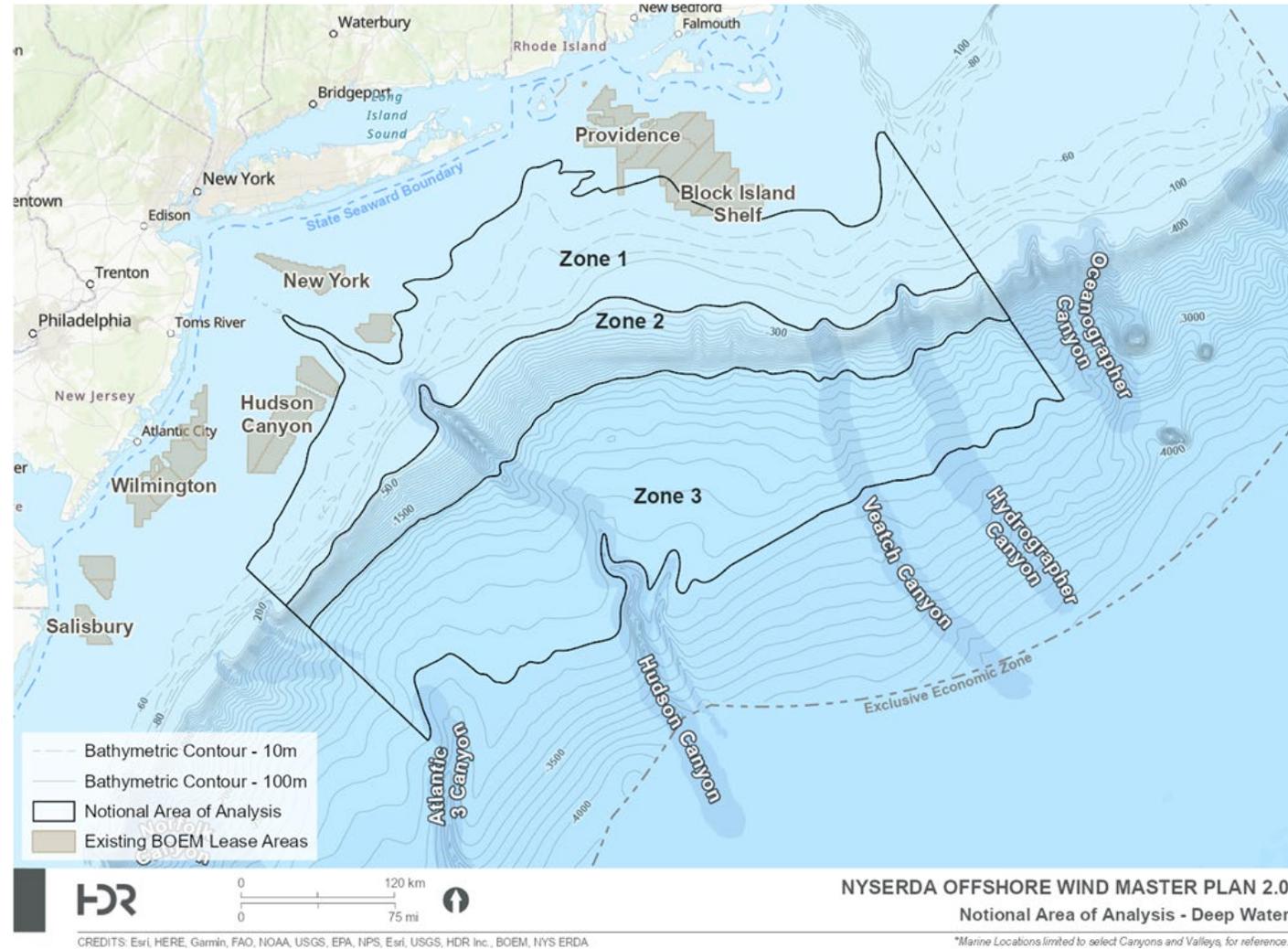
- Identify and summarize existing data on key fish, shellfish, species of concern, and sensitive habitats
- **Assess potential impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries**
- Identify areas of least environmental and socio- economic risk
- Identify potential species-specific vulnerabilities to stressors from all stages of OSW development
- Identify data and research gaps or uncertainties and recommendations for specific methods and research tools to address these gaps
- Summarize relevant mitigation and monitoring practices
- **Identify new opportunities for fisheries engagement**



TASK 3 - Fish & Fisheries

Work to Date

- Preliminary Data Review
- Building Fisheries Study Framework
 - Compiling Data References/Sources
 - Identifying key commercial, recreational, EFH, TES species, NOAA trust species
 - Identifying key habitat areas (i.e. Hudson Canyon)



Preliminary Data Review

- Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) – i.e., FishFORWRD database
- Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) Data and Reports
- On-going Industry Studies – i.e., Ocean Wind 1 and RODEO
- Sensitivity & Risk (BMPs): More Case Studies – Expanding Understanding – BOEM studies
- Others TBD

Fishery-Independent

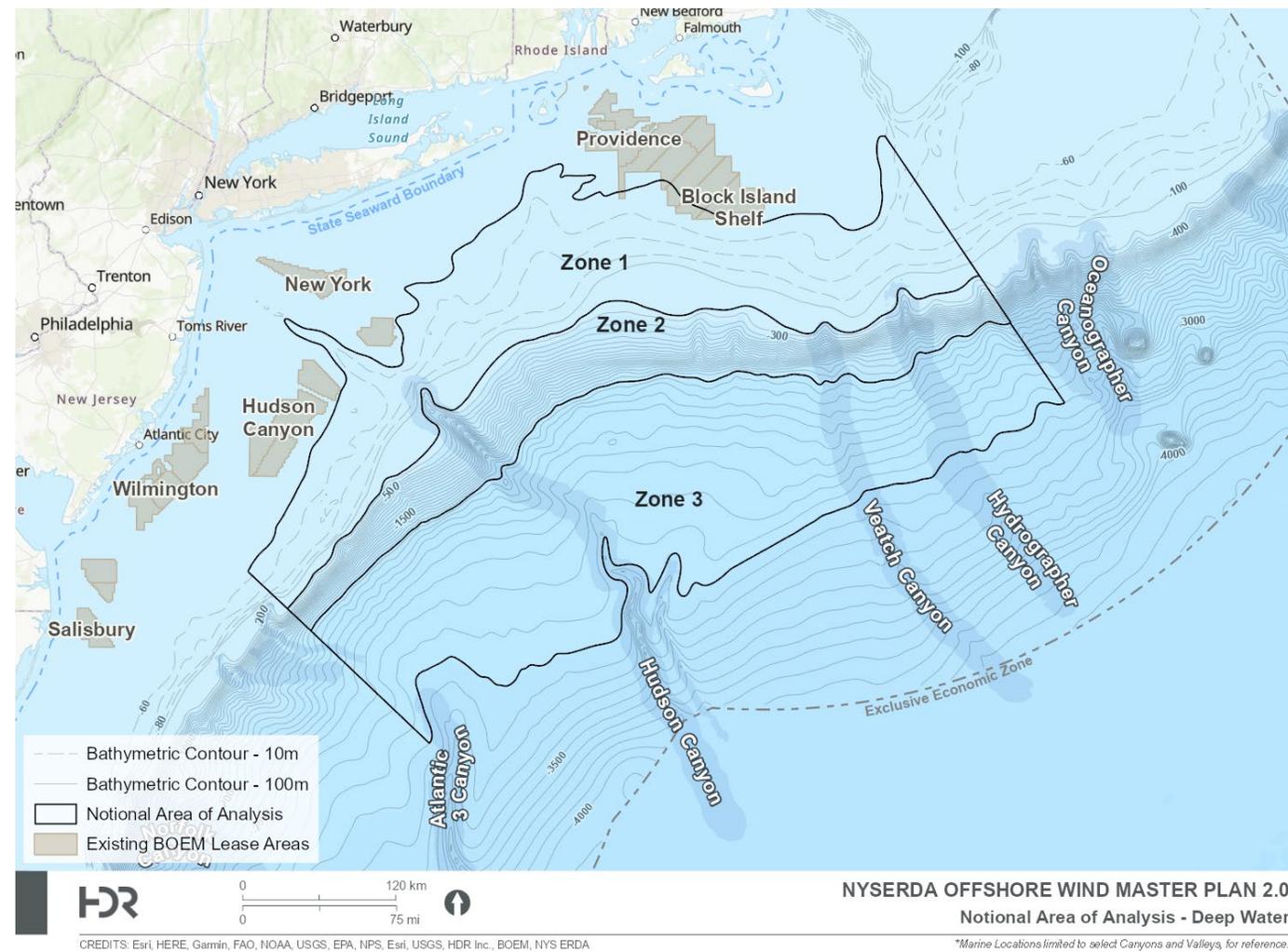
- BOEM Studies
- Marine-life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT)
- NEFSC Bottom Trawl, Sea Scallop and Clam Surveys
- NJDEP Ocean Trawl Survey
- Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) Nearshore Trawl Survey
- Northeast Fisheries Observer Program

Industry & Socio-Economic

- Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), Vessel Trip Report (VTR), and Automatic Identification System (AIS) Data
- NOAA Fisheries Commercial Catch Data
- NYSDOS & NJDEP Recreational Data
- Stakeholders including commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishers

Initial Key Species

- 63 listed EFH-species within AoA of Masterplan 2.0
 - Highly migratory species include Longfin and Shortfin Mako Shark, Bluefin and Albacore Tuna, and Longbill Spearfish (present in all Zones).
 - Species that occur in Zone 1 include several species of skate, flounder, and Ocean Pout.
- Threatened/Endangered Species (TES)
 - Atlantic Sturgeon – E/T
 - Cusk – ESA Candidate
 - Ocean Whitetip Shark – Threatened/Proposed
 - Giant Manta – Threatened/Proposed
- NOAA-trust Species to consider: Striped Bass, Tautog, Atlantic sea scallop, Hard clam, American lobster, red crab, blue crab.
 - American eel – likely present in Zone 1.
 - Tilefish – likely present in Hudson Canyon.
 - Atlantic surfclam – present in Zone 1.
- Species of Concern
 - Atlantic Wolffish – all life stages occur in Zone 1.
 - Bluefin Tuna – All life stages occur in Zones 1, 2, and 3.
 - Thorny Skate – Adults and juveniles occur in Zones 1 and 2.



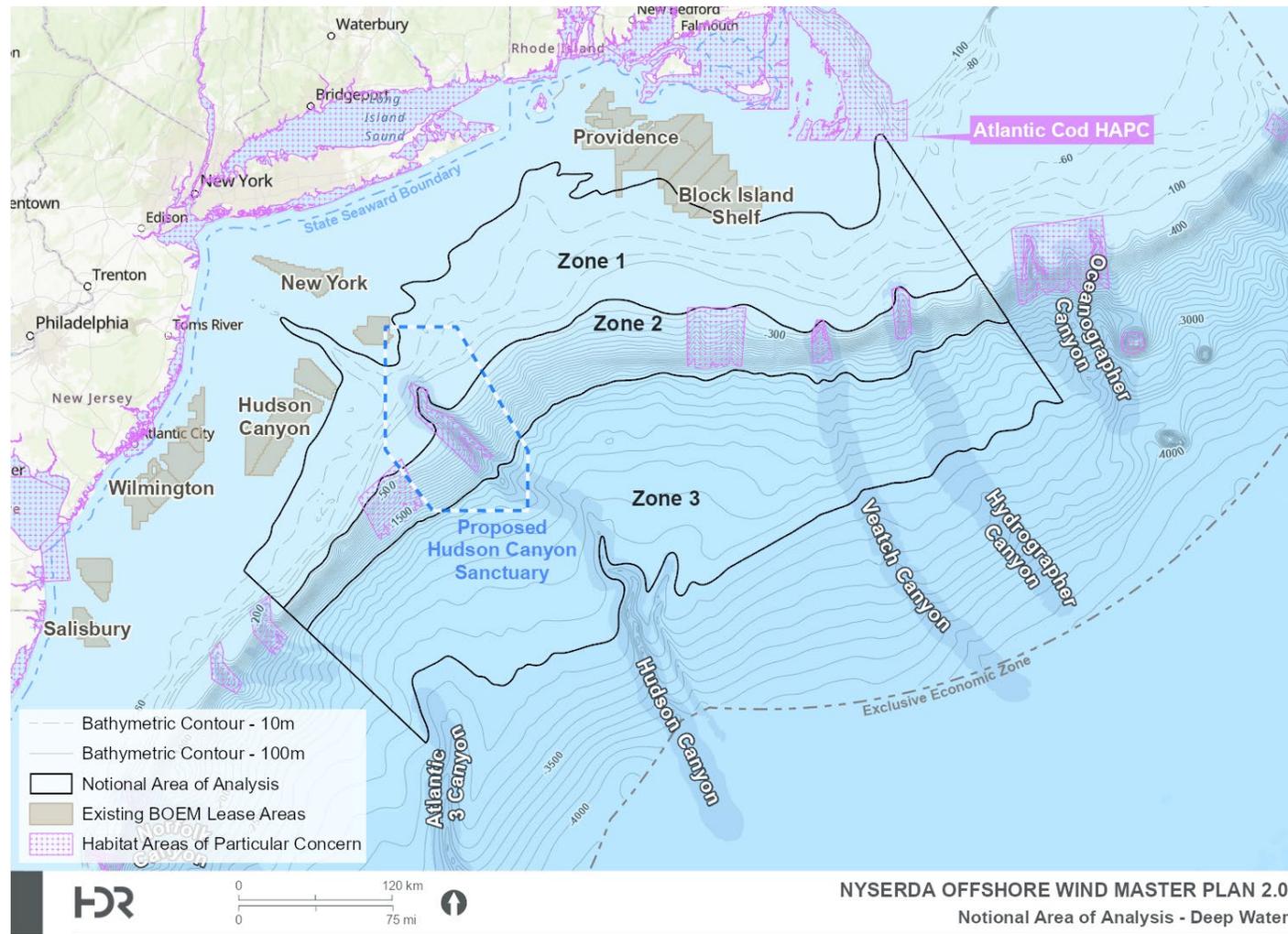
Commercial and Recreational Fishing Species

- Atlantic Sea Scallop, Longfin Inshore Squid, and Northern Shortfin Squid are top species by revenue for New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.
- Recreational species include sportfish such as Bigeye Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Porgy (Scup), and White Marlin.

Initial Areas/Habitats

Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs)

- Canyon HAPCs
 - Hudson Canyon HAPC within the AoA.
 - Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary designation began in 2022 and is still underway.
 - Initiative to ensure sportfishing continues in Hudson Canyon following NMS designation.
 - Four additional submarine canyon HAPCs occur within the study area.
- Great South Channel Juvenile Cod HAPC
 - Very small part of the northeast section of AoA.
 - Hard bottom habitat and benthic community supports forage species for juvenile cod and other managed fish.



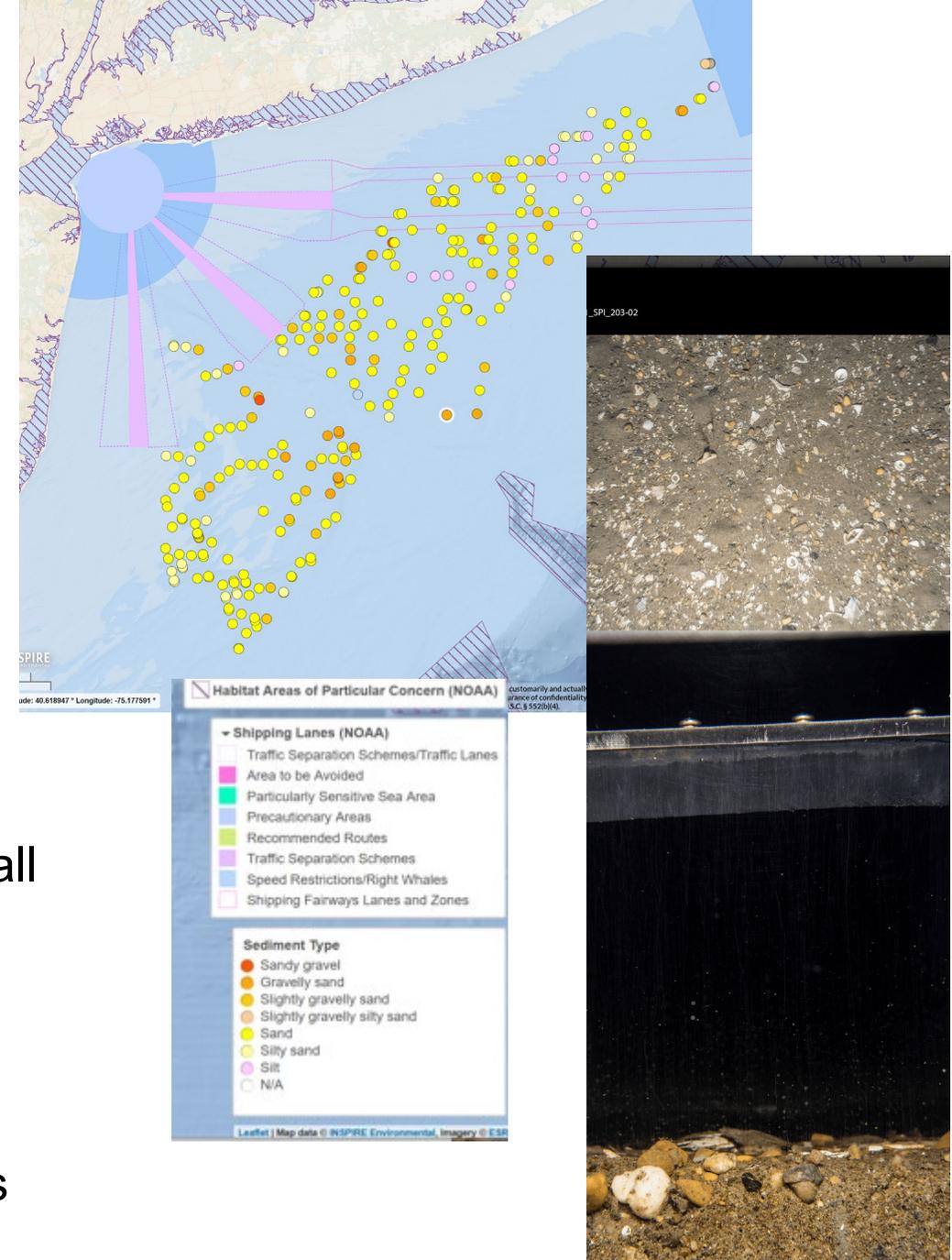
- ▼ Marine Habitat Layers ...
- ☞ Cetacean Important Areas - Feeding ...
- ☞ Cetacean Important Areas - Migration ...
- ☞ Deep Sea Coral Observations ...
- ☞ EFH Only - Essential Fish Habitat ...
- ☞ Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) ...



TASK 4 - Benthic Habitats

Methods:

- Characterize the benthic characteristics of the AoA, including:
 - Geophysical
 - Biological
 - Presence of unique habitats
 - Presence of threatened, endangered, or vulnerable species
- Identify potential risks to the benthic environment from all phases of OSW development
- Identify data and research gaps or uncertainties and recommendations for specific methods and research tools to address these gaps
- Summarize relevant mitigation and monitoring practices

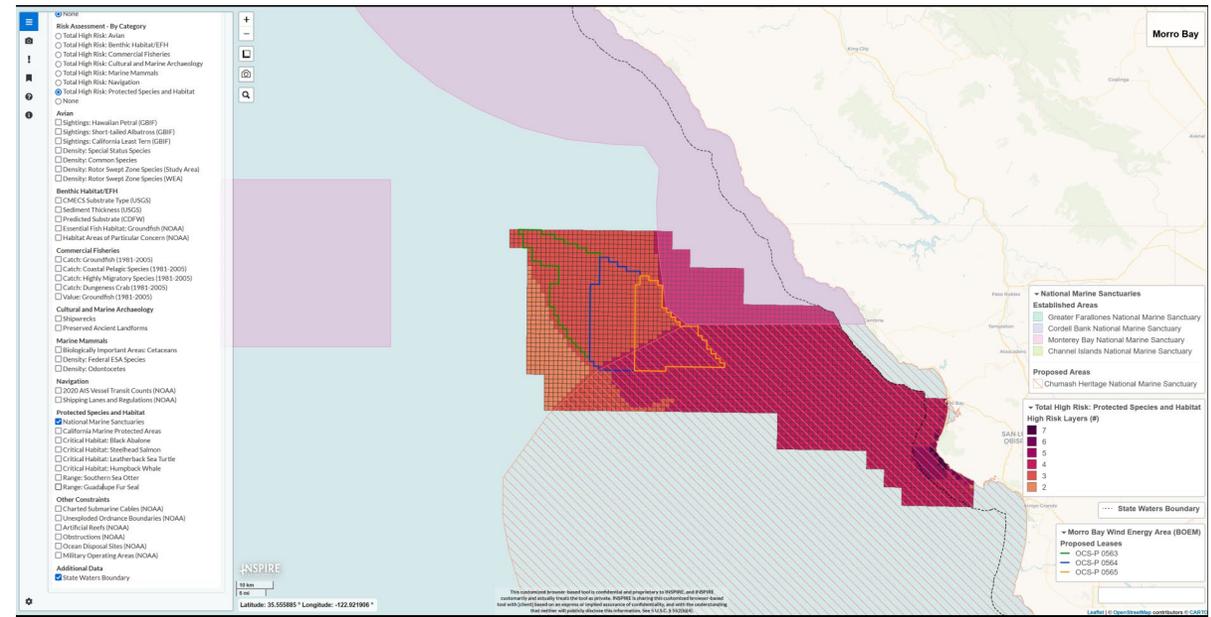
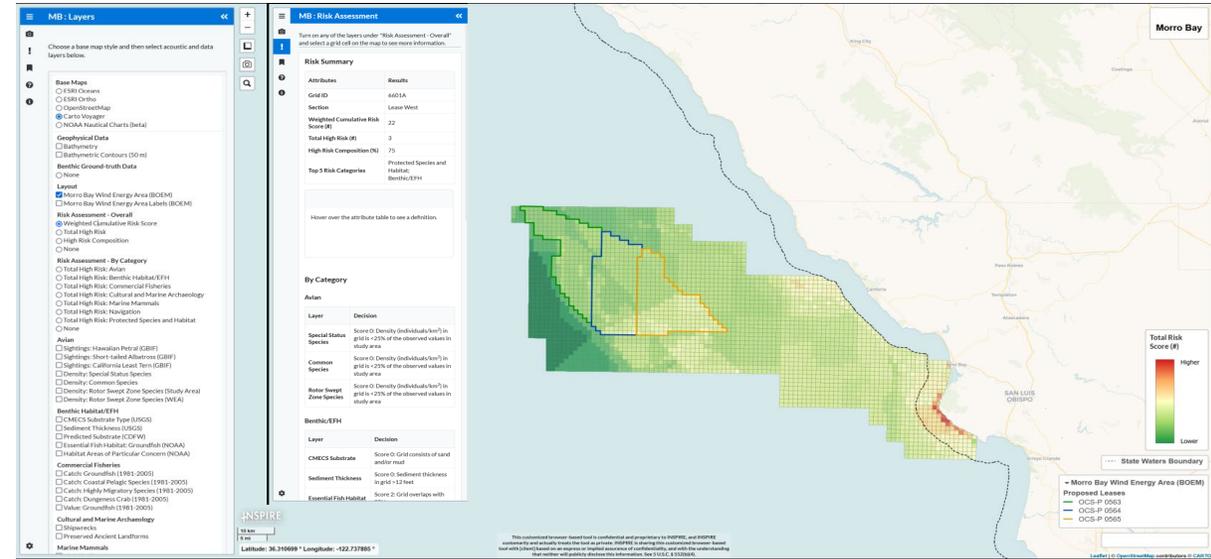




TASK 5 - Environmental Sensitivity Analysis

Methods:

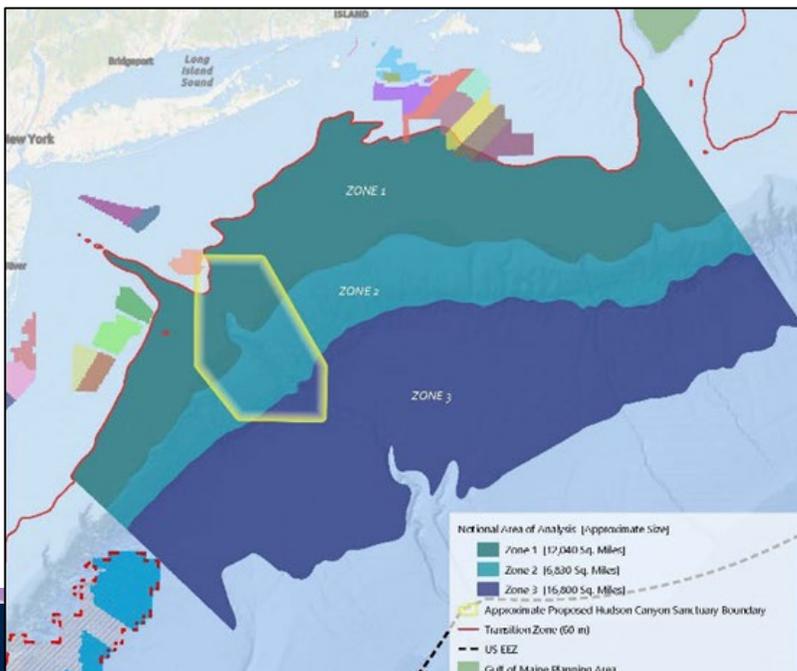
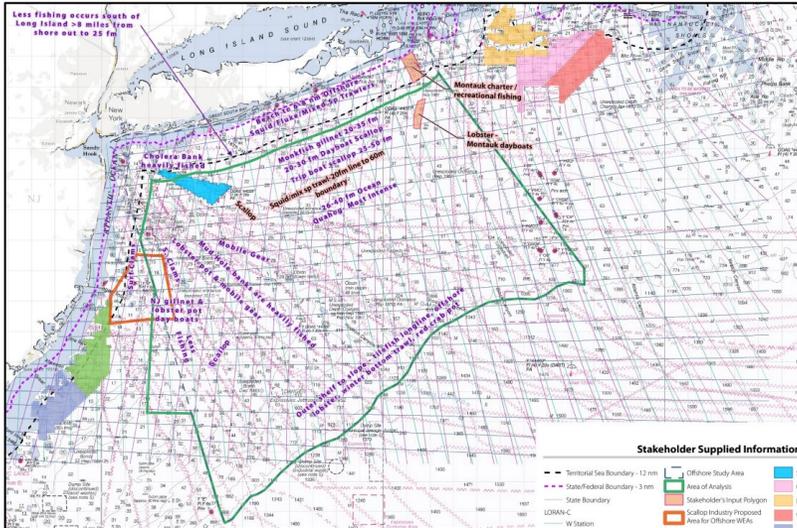
- Review stressors, risk weighting, and overall methodology in Master Plan (2017) and other relevant risk assessment models
- Develop a model to incorporate the temporal and spatial risks identified in Tasks 1 – 4 on the marine resources from potential stressors and the level of risk associated with the stressors on a particular receptor during each phase of OSW development
- Provide geographic depictions of relatively high and low areas of potential conflict for OSW development and associated stressors





Master Plan 2.0 Fisheries Engagement Approach & Deepwater Wind: Technology Considerations Study

Fisheries Stakeholder Engagement - Gaps

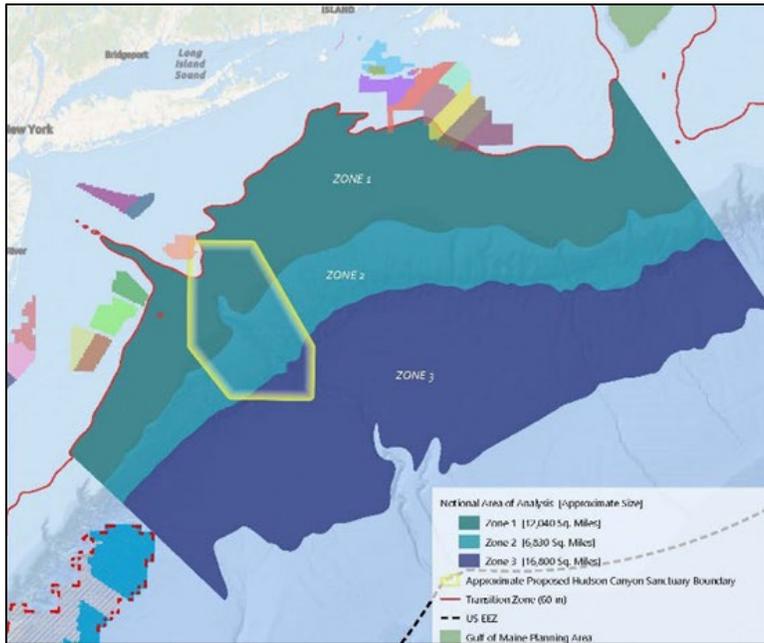


- Goal = “fill-in” the information gaps that haven’t yet been addressed through prior efforts
- Incorporate existing input from prior efforts:
 - NYSERDA OSW Master Plan
 - NYSERDA OSW Master Plan 2.0 Blue Print
 - BOEM Gulf of Maine Draft Call Area
 - BOEM Central Atlantic Draft Wind Energy Areas
 - BOEM CA Leases and OR Call Areas
 - RODA Reports
- Focus information needs within the Area of Analysis (AoA)
 - What fisheries, gear-types, constraints, are we missing...

Fisheries Stakeholder Engagement - Approach

- Timeframe = April – September 2023
- Discussion-groups within the F-TWG
 - Facilitated monthly “listening sessions”
 - Informal “office hours”
 - Representation from fisheries within the AoA, but not yet part of F-TWG – who should we reach-out to for input?
- Input will feed into brief recommendations document to BOEM, as an appendix to the Fish/Fisheries Study of the OSW Master Plan 2.0

Deep Water Wind: Technical Concepts Study Memorandum



- Goal = provide an overview of available technology and environmental issues related to wind development in waters > 60 m depth
- Address project technical specifications
 - Turbine types, anchoring mechanisms, mooring designs, export and inter-array cables, offshore substations
- Address environmental impacts, considerations, and potential mitigation
 - Risks to fisheries, sensitive habitats, listed species
- Primarily floating wind, but next-gen fixed to also be investigated



Master Plan 2.0: Deep Water

Discussion

- > Are we missing anything key from the study plans?
- > Are there specific resources or other considerations that you can identify?
- > Please email Morgan.Brunabuer@nyserda.ny.gov if you have further questions or comments after the discussion today.

